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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

**H.B. 686**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 686's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Schmidt

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- Probate divisions of the courts of common pleas may see a minimal at most increase in expenses related to the bill's provisions affecting guardianship case timelines and guardian ad litem appointment, offset somewhat by a minimal increase in fee revenues from the bill's \$10 fee for the deposit of a guardianship nomination.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on the state.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill enacts the Parker Kahle Act regarding guardianship of an adult child with a disability and the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities. More specifically it does the following: (1) allows a parent or legal custodian of an incompetent adult child to apply for guardianship at any time after the child reaches 17 years and 6 months of age, (2) requires the court with jurisdiction when a person with a disability is the subject of a pending proceeding or a court order to allocate parental rights and responsibilities to maintain jurisdiction while such a guardianship proceeding is pending, and (3) authorizes the court to appoint a guardian ad litem for the person with a disability while the proceeding is pending. The bill requires the probate judge to charge and collect \$10 for the deposit of a guardianship nomination. For a full discussion of the bill's provisions, see the [LSC bill analysis for H.B. 686](#).

The bill is unlikely to create additional cases for the courts of common pleas, but may adjust certain timelines allowing some cases to be filed with the probate division earlier than they may otherwise have been and extending another division's jurisdiction for a longer term. For example, a domestic relations division may retain jurisdiction over a case, and an order to allocate parental rights may remain in place, while a proceeding to establish guardianship of a person with a disability is pending in the probate division.

These timeline modifications are expected to affect a small number of court proceedings. Relatedly, the bill's fee for deposit of a guardianship nomination is likely to result in minimal additional annual fee revenue for any court which will minimally offset additional expenses related to extended case timelines in the courts of common pleas. Adult guardianship cases make up a small fraction of the work of the probate courts. According to the Supreme Court, 7,076 new filings for the guardianship of an adult were filed in 2025, or 7.7% of 92,182 new case filings. Notably, this statistic also includes guardianship of the elderly cases which likely make up the majority of adult guardianship cases.

The bill's authorization for the court to appoint a guardian ad litem for the person with a disability while the proceeding is pending may result in additional expenses for the courts. Under current practice, the cost of a guardian ad litem is set and assessed by the court and attached to the case and shared by the parties. The bill requires the court to allocate payment to each party for the guardian ad litem in proportion to the time spent with each parent. However, in cases where the parties are indigent, those costs may be borne by the court. Any additional costs for a guardian ad litem appointment as an indirect result of the bill can be expected to be minimal.